



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/555,852	11/07/2005	Kyung Sun Kang	4240-130	4588
23448	7590	01/03/2008		
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY / TECHNOLOGY LAW			EXAMINER	
PO BOX 14329			BERTOGLIO, VALARIE E	
RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27709				
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1632	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			01/03/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/555,852	KANG, KYUNG SUN	

Office Action Summary

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2005.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 1-16 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Applicants' preliminary amendments, filed 11/07/2005 and 11/28/2005 have been entered.

Claims 3 and 7-11 were amended 11/07/2005 and claims 12-16 were added 11/28/2005. Claims 1-16 are pending.

It is noted that claim 5 is drawn to a method for producing stem cells. However, the claim fails to recite any active method steps and merely recites characteristics of the cells.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-11 and 16 drawn to a stem cells, and compositions comprising said stem cells, obtained through culture of umbilical cord blood have various claimed characteristics including specific marker expression and morphology as well as the ability to differentiate into mesodermal, endodermal and ectodermal cells and a method of making said stem cells.

Group II, claim(s)12-14 drawn to a method of treating cardiovascular disease using stem cells obtained from umbilical cord blood.

Group III, claim(s) 15 drawn to a method of treating necrosis involving a limb using stem cells obtained from umbilical cord blood.

The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

Art Unit: 1632

Unity of Invention between different categories of inventions will only be found to exist if specific combinations of inventions are present. Those combinations include:

- 1) A product and a special process of manufacture of said product
- 2) A product and a process of use of said product
- 3) A product, a special process of manufacture of said product, and a process of use of said product
- 4) A process and an apparatus specially designed to carry out said process
- 5) A product, a special process of manufacture of said product, and an apparatus specially designed to carry out said process.

The allowed combinations do not include multiple products, multiple methods of using said products, and methods of making multiple products as claimed in the instant invention.

37 CFR 1.475 (c) states that:

"If an application contains claims to more or less than one of the combination of categories of invention set forth in paragraph (b) of this section, unity of invention might not be present."

37 CFR 1.475 (d) states:

"If multiple products, processes of manufacture or uses are claimed, the first invention of the category first mentioned in the claims of the application and the first recited invention of each other categories related thereto will be considered as the main invention in the claims, see PCT Article 17(3)(a) and 1.476(c)."

37 CFR 1.475(e) states:

"The determination whether a group of inventions is so linked as to form a single general inventive concept shall be made without regard to whether the inventions are claimed in separate claims or as alternative within a single claim."

In the instant case, the technical feature linking the groups is a stem cell present in umbilical cord blood. However, this technical feature fails to provide a contribution over the prior art, and thus fails to be a special technical feature. For example, Pan *et al* (April 2005, Experimental Neurology, 192:365-372) taught culture and selection of a subset of umbilical cord blood stem cells expressing CD33,CD45,CD44 and lacking CD34 expression. Therefore, the technical feature linking the inventions of Groups I-III do not constitute a special technical feature as defined by PCT Rule 13.2, as it does not define a contribution over the prior art.

Furthermore, as stated above, multiple products and methods of making or using the products (Groups II and III) do not provide unity of invention.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Valarie Bertoglio whose telephone number is (571) 272-0725. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:00 to 5:00 (Eastern Standard Time). Should the Examiner be unavailable, inquiries should be directed to Peter Paras, SPE of Art Unit 1632, at (571) 272-4517. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 1600 via the Official Fax at (571) 273-8300. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989).

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Valarie Bertoglio, Ph.D./
Primary Examiner
AU 1632